

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /121 W

----- 083758

R 151951Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1247

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE DURING INAUGURAL PERIOD

REF : SANTO DOMINGO 3342

1. SITUATION IN SANTO DOMINGO RETURNED TO NEAR NORMAL LAST FEW DAYS FOLLOWING CENTER-CITY SHUTDOWN OF AUGUST 12. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS ARRESTS -- IN THE HUNDREDS -- OF LOW-LEVEL MILITANT OPPOSITIONISTS SUSPECTED OF ORGANIZING THE STRIKES.

2. SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTIES ARE GOING AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR "DAYS OF SILENCE" AUGUST 15 AND 16 AND HAVE REQUESTED ALL THOSE OPPOSED TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES. AS OF 11 A.M. AUGUST 15, HOWEVER, SITUATION IN SANTO DOMINGO WAS APPARENTLY TRANQUIL -- WITH STORES OPEN, TRAFFIC NEAR NORMAL AND PEOPLE ON THE STREETS. DESPITE RUMORS THAT MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE SANTIAGO ACCORD WERE CONSIDERING TURNING THE "DAYS OF SILENCE" INTO A GENERAL STRIKE, THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED.

3. COMMENT: EFFECTIVENESS OF "DAYS OF SILENCE" WILL BE HARD TO MEASURE, AS AUGUST 16 IS NATIONAL HOLIDAY (RESTORATION DAY) AND AUGUST 15, ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY A

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WORK DAY, HAS BEEN DECLARED "DAY OF REJOICING" BY

GOVERNMENT DURING WHICH PRO-GOVERNMENT CITY COUNCIL OF
SANTO DOMINGO HAS EXHORTED MERCHANTS TO KEEP THEIR STORES
CLOSED. AT THIS JUNCTURE, VIOLENCE SEEMS UNLIKELY, ALTHOUGH
GIVEN THE CURRENT STATE OF OPPOSITION FEELINGS, SOME
ACTS OF VANDALISM COULD OCCUR DURING THE INAUGURAL PERIOD.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 15 AUG 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740225-0139
From: SANTO DOMINGO
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30 JUN 2005

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